

---

---

**Introduced by Senator Wyland**

February 10, 2011

---

---

An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to high school graduation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 243, as introduced, Wyland. High school graduation: courses required.

Existing law prohibits a pupil from receiving a diploma of graduation from high school unless he or she completes specified course requirements while enrolled in grades 9 to 12, inclusive.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes in this provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 51225.3. (a) ~~In order to receive a diploma of graduation~~  
4 ~~from high school, a~~ pupil shall complete all of the following while  
5 ~~enrolled in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma~~  
6 ~~of graduation from high school:~~  
7 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects  
8 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless  
9 otherwise specified:  
10 (A) Three courses in English.  
11 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

1 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical  
2 sciences.

3 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States  
4 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a  
5 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a  
6 one-semester course in economics.

7 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.  
8 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this  
9 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be  
10 deemed a course in foreign language.

11 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil ~~has been~~  
12 ~~is~~ exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

13 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing  
14 board of the school district.

15 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,  
16 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means  
17 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may  
18 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,  
19 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,  
20 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses  
21 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,  
22 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a  
23 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and  
24 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course  
25 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

26 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district  
27 shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other  
28 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that  
29 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified  
30 in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12,  
31 transfers into the district from another school district or between  
32 high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding  
33 that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional  
34 requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she  
35 remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A  
36 school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an  
37 exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the  
38 person holding the right to make educational decisions for the  
39 pupil, if ~~any~~ of the requirements that are waived will affect the  
40 pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational

1 institution and shall provide information about transfer  
2 opportunities available through the California Community  
3 Colleges.

O